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BOROUGH
OF
PONTEFRACT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the



Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1962

B O R O U G H
O F
P O N T E F R A C T

A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
F O R T H E Y E A R
1962

B Y
J.F. FRASER.
M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst, R.C.O.G.

Medical Officer's Section,
Health Department,
Baghill House,
Walkergate,
Pontefract.

To:- The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Pontefract.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

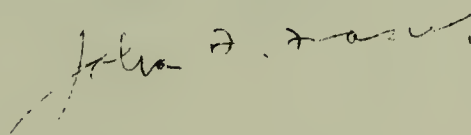
I have the honour to present for your information and consideration, a Report on the Health and Health Services of the Borough during the year 1962.

The Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough, Housing and the Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies, is complementary to this Report.

For your information, certain details of the personal health services administered by the County Council are included.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

P O N T E F R A C T B O R O U G H .

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE - 1962.

Chairman: Ald. B. Wood.

Deputy Chairman: Cr. G.E. Poppleton.

Ald. J. Blackburn, O.B.E.

Cr. R. Cunningham.

Ald. T. Hill.

Ald. F.W. Lane.

Cr. E.S.W. Marr.

Cr. Mrs. V. Pritchard.

Cr. D. Robinson.

Cr. R.G. Stringer.

Cr. C.A. Wileman.

Cr. L. Williams. (Mayor)

PART ONE.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the Borough: 4,865 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population: 27,960.

Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1962) according to the rate books: 8,208.

Rateable Value: 1962 - £317,803.

Sum represented by penny rate: 1962 - £1,284.

VITAL STATISTICS. (Registrar-General's - Registered during the year).

The figures in brackets are the corresponding ones for 1961.

BIRTHS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate.	282	(230)	226	(262)	508	(492)
Illegitimate.	<u>13</u>	<u>(11)</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>(10)</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>(21)</u>
	295	(241)	242	(272)	537	(513)

Crude birth rate per 1000 estimated civilian population: 19.2 (18.9)

Adjusted birth rate per 1000 estimated civilian population 18.2 (17.9)

Percentage of illegitimate births: 4.09 (4.42)

<u>Stillbirths.</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate.	4	(12)	4	(4)	8	(16)
Illegitimate.	<u>-</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>(-)</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>(1)</u>
	4	(13)	6	(4)	10	(17)

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births:- 18.3 (32.1)

Rate per 1000 estimated civilian population:- 0.36 (0.63)

<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>	
All age groups.	151	(153)	124	(134)	285	(287)
<u>Infants under one year</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate.	4	(10)	2	(8)	6	(18)
Illegitimate.	<u>1</u>	<u>(-)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2)</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>(2)</u>
	5	(10)	2	(10)	7	(20)

MATERNAL DEATHS. Nil (Nil).

Death Rates.

Crude Death rate per 1000 population:-	9.8	(10.6)
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 population:-	12.2	(12.6)
All Infants per 1,000 live births:-	13.0	(39.0)
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births:-	11.8	(36.6)
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births:-	34.5	(95.24)
Maternal deaths per 1,000 live and stillbirths:-	Nil.	(Nil)

The Principal causes of death are set out in the following Table.

Cause of Death:-	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	3	-	3
Other infective and parasitic diseases.	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	9	3	12
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	4	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	15	9	24
Diabetes.	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	10	23	33
Coronary disease, angina.	30	19	49
Hypertension with heart disease.	1	3	4
Other heart disease.	9	20	29
Other circulatory disease.	5	5	10
Influenza.	-	1	1
Pneumonia.	21	12	33
Bronchitis.	22	4	26
Other diseases of Respiratory System.	3	-	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	-	1
Congenital malformations.	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	13	12	25
Motor Vehicle Accidents.	2	1	3
All other accidents.	2	4	6
Totals:	151	124	275

The local death rate during the past 12 years is shown in the following Table.

<u>Years.</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>
1951-1952	14.7.
1953	16.2
1954	10.5
1955	9.2
1956	9.2
1957	9.7
1958	20.4
1959	11.2
1960	12.0
1961	10.6
1962	9.8

Infant Mortality.

The following Table gives causes of Infant Deaths during the year 1962, classified into age groups:-

TABLE II

Cause of Death:	Age groups.							All ages Under one year		
	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks	3-4 wks	1-3 mth	3-6 mth	6-9 mth	9-12 mths.	M	F	Total
Inter-auricular septal defect.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Neonatal asphyxia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Gross Prematurity.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Cerebral haemorrhage, prematurity.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Asphyxia, prolonged labour.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Asphyxia, prematurity.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Atelectasis, inhalation of meconium.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Totals:-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	7

COMPARISON OF PONTEFRACT VITAL STATISTICS WITH OTHER WEST RIDING AREAS,
THE WEST RIDING ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY AND ENGLAND AND WALES.

TABLE III

	Pontefract Borough	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (prov- isional figures)
<u>BIRTH RATE</u> (Per 1,000 estimated population).				
Crude Rate:	19.2	17.5	17.8	18.0
Adjusted Rate:	18.2	17.7	17.8	-
<u>DEATH RATE</u> (per 1,000 estimated population).				
Crude Rate:	9.8	12.7	12.0	11.9
Adjusted Rate:	12.2	13.4	13.3	-
Infective & Para. Dis. Excl. Tub. but incl. Syphl. and other V.D.	0.04	0.04	0.04	*
Tuberculosis Respiratory.	0.11	0.05	0.05	0.06
Tuberculosis Other.	-	0.01	0.01	0.01
Tuberculosis - All forms.	0.11	0.06	0.05	0.07
Cancer.	1.54	2.14	2.00	2.18
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system.	1.18	1.97	1.84	*
Heart & Circulatory Diseases.	3.29	4.84	4.56	*
Respiratory Diseases.	2.25	1.62	1.52	*
Maternal Mortality. (per 1,000 live and still births).	-	0.09	0.20	0.35
Perinatal Mortality.	31.1	30.6	31.5	*
Neonatal Mortality.	13.0	15.3	15.7	15.1
Infant Mortality.	13.0	22.8	23.3	21.4
Stillbirths (per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	18.3	18.0	18.5	18.1

* Figures not available.

P A R T T W O

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIVE AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following Table gives details of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

TABLE IV

Disease:	Jan/ Mar.	Apl/ Jun.	Jul/ Sept	Oct/ Dec	Total	Deaths	Number of Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever.	4	-	1	1	6	-	3
Whooping Cough.	-	-	3	-	3	-	3
Measles.	11	-	9	300	320	-	1
Dysentery.	2	3	1	-	6	-	-
Meningococcal Infection.	1	-	-	1	2	-	1
Acute Pneumonia.	1	-	-	3	4	-	2
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Chickenpox	44	45	72	93	254	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals:-	65	48	86	398	597	-	11

Diphtheria.

No case of Diphtheria occurred during the year.

Immunisation.

319 children under the age of 5 years and 260 over the age of 5 years received a full course of primary immunisation against the disease. In addition 308 children received a reinforcing injection.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table summarises particulars contained in the Register of Tuberculous persons.

TABLE V.

Number of Cases on Register.	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total on Register.
	M	F	M	F	
At the commencement of 1962.	105	76	17	20	218
Notified for the first time during 1962.	7	-	-	-	7
Restored to Register.	-	-	-	-	-
Inward Transfers	2	3	-	-	5
Removed from Register.	8	7	-	2	17
Cases remaining on Register at the end of 1962	106	72	17	18	213

The reason for removal of cases from the Register are given in the following Table:-

TABLE VI

Entries relating to:	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total in Register.
	M	F	M	F	
Persons who have died.	3	-	-	-	3
Persons certified by the medical practitioner in attendance to have recovered.	5	4	-	2	11
Revised diagnosis - not Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-
Persons who have ceased to reside permanently in the district.	-	3	-	-	3
Totals:-	8	7	-	2	17

In the following Table new cases and mortality are classified according to age, sex and site of disease:-

TABLE VII.

Ages.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 35	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Under 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 65	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Over 65	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	-	-	-	2	-	-	-

National Assistance Act.

Section 47.

It was not found necessary to deal with any patients under the above Act.

P A R T I I I

C O U N T Y C O U N C I L
O F T H E
W E S T R I D I N G O F Y O R K S H I R E
D I V I S I O N 1 2 .

Pontefract Municipal Borough.

Featherstone Urban District.

Knottingley Urban District.

Osgoldcross Rural District.

A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
D I V I S I O N A L M E D I C A L O F F I C E R
1 9 6 2

B Y

J . F . F R A S E R

M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D. Obst., R.C.O.G.

Divisional Staff at 31st December, 1962.

Divisional Medical Officer.

J.F. Fraser, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer
and School Medical Officer.

E. Atkinson. M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.M.

Assistant County Medical Officer
and School Medical Officer.

M. Obadiah. M.B., B.S., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Leeds Regional Hospital Board - Visiting Staff.

Ophthalmologist.

J.V. Kirkwood. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Orthopaedic Surgeon.

R.W.L. Calderwood. F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Oto-Rhino-Laryngologist.

K.M. Mayall. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.F.P.S.

Health Visitors and School Nurses.

Miss E.M. Atkinson.
Mrs. P.M. Brice.
Mrs. B. Clarke.
Miss L.O.I. Day.
Miss A. Elsley.
Mrs. H. Faulkner.
Miss B.N. Kennington.
Miss M. Reading.
Mrs. M.K. Walsh.

Assistant Health Visitors.

Mrs. E.S. Chew.
Mrs. L. Hudson.
Mrs. J.K. Smith. (Clinic Nurse).

Tuberculosis Health Visitor.

Mrs. E.W. Petch.

Midwives.

Mrs. A. Atack.
Mrs. K. Berry.
Mrs. I. Bushell.
Miss E.S. Essex.
Mrs. E. Glover (Relief)
Mrs. D. Kelly.
Mrs. B. Murphy
Miss C. Norton.
Mrs. A.M. Randall.
Miss C.A. Roberts.

Home Nurses.

Miss L. Casey.
Mrs. S.G. Cousins.
Mrs. S. Eaton.
Mrs. F. Green.
Mrs. V. McVeigh.
Mrs. A. Pearce.
Mrs. J.M. Pycock.
Mrs. D.M.A. Ward.

Home Nurse/Midwives.

Mrs. E. Gledhill.
Mrs. P. Philip.

Mental Welfare Officers.

Miss M. Horsley.
Mr. G.F.G. Townsend.

Speech Therapists.

Mrs. W. Hepworth.
Miss K.M. Wade.

Clerical Staff.

Mr. W. Carver. (Senior Clerk).
Mr. R. Bailey. (Deputy Senior Clerk).
Miss E. Brabbs.
Miss K. Duker.
Miss J.M. Gibbons.
Miss P.G. Kelly.
Miss C.A. Scurrah.
Mrs. E. Slack. (Part-Time)
Mrs. A. Smith.
Mrs. C. Walker.

INTRODUCTION.

In this section is given a brief account of the services provided by the West Riding County Council as a whole, under Part III of the National Health Service Act.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

The number of live births registered in the Divisional area during 1962 was 1188, an increase of 39 compared with the previous year.

The CRUDE BIRTH RATE, 19.1 per thousand of the estimated population compared with 18.8 for the previous year, was well above the West Riding Administrative County rate of 17.8 and the England and Wales birth rate of 18.0.

Deaths.

The deaths assigned to the Divisional area after correction for transfers were 600, an increase of 14 compared with 1961.

The CRUDE DEATH RATE from all causes was 9.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population, the same as in the previous year. The West Riding Administrative area is 12.0 and England and Wales 11.9.

Infant Mortality

In 1962 the deaths of Infants under one year of age numbered 29. The Infant Mortality was 24.4 as against 33.1 in the previous year.

Maternal Mortality

There was no maternal death in the Divisional area during the year.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

Domiciliary Midwifery

Of the 1182 notified live births, 508 were delivered by domiciliary midwives, the private doctors being present in 96 of these cases.

Notifications.

The following notifications were received from midwives practicing in the Divisions:-

Death of Mother.	-
Death of Child.	-
Still Births.	6
Liability to be source of infection.	-

Medical Assistance.

Medical Aid notices sent in by Midwives during 1962 numbered 52, all of these being domiciliary.

Gas and Air Analgesia

All the domiciliary midwives hold the certificate in gas and air analgesia administration and were equipped with the necessary apparatus.

The County Council decided in 1959 to provide each Midwife with a Trilene Analgesia Machine in addition to the Gas and Air Machine. By the end of the year eleven Midwives had received the new machines.

Gas and Air Analgesia only was given in 6 cases. Pethidine only was given in 89 cases, and gas and air and pethidine was given in 88 cases. Trilene was administered in 82 cases and with Pethidine in 183 cases.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

There are four ante-natal clinics in the Division which are held at Pontefract, Featherstone, Knottingley and Ferrybridge, and during the year 369 patients attended, of which 268 were new patients. The total number of attendances was 1,263. 81 patients were examined post-natally during the year.

Relaxation Classes.

Relaxation classes for expectant mothers are held at the Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley Clinics.

These have continued to be fairly well attended and the number of attendances at these Clinics during the year was 457.

Institutional Midwifery

Patients from this Division are admitted to either the Castleford Maternity Home or to the Southmoor Maternity Unit, Hemsworth.

Some difficulty was experienced in finding accommodation for all patients wishing to have their babies in maternity homes. Due to travelling difficulties there is a preference for the Castleford Maternity Home, although our allocation of beds is much smaller than at Southmoor.

CHILD WELFARE.

There are County owned clinics at Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley.

Our Pontefract Clinic continues to be admired and appreciated by patients and staff.

The following proprietary preparations were available at cost prices to all women attending at the Clinics.-

Ostermilk No. 2.
Trufood, humanised.
Cow and Gato, full cream.
Minadex.
Trufood Cereal.
Adexolin.
Scotts Twin Pack.

Farex.
Robinson's Groat's.
Robinson's Triple Pack.
Robrex.
Robsoup.
Rose Hip Syrup.

The annual turnover of baby food etc. is approximately £5,000.

Orthopaedic Clinics.

Mr. R.W.L. Calderwood, Orthopaedic Surgeon, holds a monthly Clinic at the Central Clinic, Pontefract, and during the year 9 sessions were held. 86 children were seen at these clinics and the total number of attendances made was 107.

Child Guidance Treatment.

A Child Guidance Clinic is held weekly at the Central Clinic, Pontefract. Children from surrounding Divisional areas attended here in addition to our own. In November, 1961, Dr. E. Atkinson Senior Assistant County Medical Officer, joined Dr. P.J. Crowley, the Consultant Psychiatrist, on the staff of the Clinic.

Mr. D.G. Pickles, Clinic Psychologist, and Mrs. P.Y. Harris Psychiatric Social Worker, continued to do much good work at the Clinic.

Speech Therapy

Miss K.W. Wade, Speech Therapist, held clinics on two half-days each week, both at Pontefract Central Clinic. Mrs. Hepworth, Speech Therapist held one session at Pontefract Clinic and one at Knottingley. During the year 177 sessions were held and 85 children were treated.

Handicapped Pupils.

The regular medical examination of handicapped children continued during the year and where necessary, recommendations were made for placement in special schools.

Medical Examination of Teachers and Entrants to Training College.

It is the duty of the School Medical Officer to examine candidates applying for entry to training colleges for the purpose of satisfying the college Authorities of their fitness to follow a course of teacher training. During the year 37 candidates were examined and where necessary, x-ray examinations arranged.

In the case of entrants to the teaching profession, 6 examinations were made.

The following were distributed free of charge:-

Ascorbic Acid.
Fersamel Syrup.

Ferrous Fumarate Tablets.
Lactation Tablets.

I wish to express my thanks to the ladies of the Voluntary Committees at the Clinics for all the work they have done during the year.

Premature Babies.

During the year 59 babies weighing 5½lbs. or less were born in hospitals or nursing homes to mothers normally resident in the Division, and 25 were born at home.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

Medical Inspections

The periodic medical examination of the four age groups, i.e. the entrants (5 years +) second age group (7 years +) intermediate years (10 years +) and leavers (14 years +) continued throughout the year at the 57 schools in the Division.

Re-examinations of children who, at previous periodic or special examinations had been found to have defects, were made at each school medical inspection. During the year 4,622 periodic inspections were carried out.

General Condition of Children.

All pupils at routine medical inspections are classified as to their general condition at the time of examination and 98.92% were classified as satisfactory and only 1.08% as unsatisfactory.

Uncleanliness.

During the year health visitors and school nurses made 16,982 examinations of children in schools. Of these 437 individual children were found to be infested.

SPECIAL CLINICS.

Ophthalmic Clinics.

Dr. J.V. Kirkwood holds weekly clinics at the Central Clinic, Pontefract. During the year 1,597 children were examined. Of these 529 were prescribed glasses.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics.

Mr. K.M. Mayall holds fortnightly sessions at the Central Clinic, Pontefract, for children from this Division. During the year Mr. Mayall held 22 sessions and saw 124 children. In all, the children made 246 attendances.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis was offered to all children in the year of their 13th birthday. With the consent of the parents, a test is performed to see if the child has already encountered the germ of Tuberculosis. If it has done so, no further action is taken, as it is assumed that the child is acquiring a natural immunity. If, however, the test indicates that the child has not encountered tuberclo bacillus, then vaccination is carried out.

The age of 13 years has been chosen because at this age the natural resistance to the disease tends to drop and it is hoped to confer protection during the years of increased risk.

<u>No of consents issued.</u>	<u>No. of consents received.</u>	<u>Mantoux Test</u>	<u>Mantoux Negative</u>	<u>Mantoux Positive</u>
1,736	1,032	885	805	80
<u>Not Ascertained</u>			<u>B.C.G. Vaccination.</u>	
-			805	

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

The programme of Vaccination was continued during the year.

At the end of 1962 the position was as follows:-

Children and Young Persons under 18 years of age.

Number vaccinated. 15,481.

Young persons born between 1933 and 1942.

Number vaccinated. 3,057

Adults.

Number vaccinated. 974
19,522

HEALTH VISITING.

During the year, the following number of visits were made by the Health Visitors in the Division.

No. of children under 5 years of age visited during the year3,581
Total visits made to expectant mothers.. ..	371
Total visits made to children under 1 year of age	6,106
Total visits made to children aged 1 and under 2 years . ..	2,235
Total visits made to children aged 2 but under 5 years . ..	4,028
Total visits made to tuberculous households	1,603
Total families or households visited	5,149
Other cases visited	7,122

HOME NURSING.

During the year 20,596 visits were paid by home nurses compared with 21,927 in the previous year.

The number of cases attended and visits made are shown below:-

Classification.	No. of Cases attended by Home Nurses during the year.	No. of visits paid by Home Nurses during year.
(1) Medical.	484	16,709
(2) Surgical.	158	3,583
(3) Infectious Diseases.	-	-
(4) Tuberculosis.	6	160
(5) Maternal complications.	12	110
(6) Other.	34	34
Totals:-	694	20,596
Patients included in above who were aged 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year	351	13,310
Children included in above who were under 5 years of age at the time of the first visit during the year.	26	174
Patients included in above who have had more than 24 visits during the year.	198	15,378

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The Home Help Service is provided under the National Health Service Act, 1946. Section 29 of the Act stipulates the class of case for which provision of a Home Help can be made. These are as follows:-

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| (a) Ill. | (d) Expectant Mother. |
| (b) Lying-in. | (e) Mental Defective. |
| (c) Aged. | (f) A child not over compulsory school age. |

Before a Home Help can be provided, a form of application must be signed by the head of the household on which he undertakes either to pay the whole cost of the service, or to give a statement of his income and agree to pay the assessed charge according to the County Council scheme.

Under no circumstances can a Home Help be used as a sitter-in and the amount of assistance which a patient is granted is related strictly to the amount of domestic work which is required to be done.

The authorised establishment of Home Helps in this Division was 37.

Authorised Divisional Establishment.

(i)	Basic	37.
(ii)	From Reserve	-
(ii)	TOTAL	37

No. of Domestic Helps employed at 31st December, 1962.

(i)	Whole-time	Nil.
(ii)	Part-time.	53
(iii)	TOTAL.	53

Cases provided with Domestic Help during the year ended 31st December, 1962.

	<u>No. of Cases.</u>	<u>Hours Employed</u>
(i) Maternity (including expectant mothers).	42	2,261
(ii) Tuberculosis.	2	187
(iii) Chronic Sick - (a) aged 65+	412	67,757
(b) under 65	71	10,425
(iv) Others.	-	-
	<u>527</u>	<u>80,630</u>

Number of Home Helps that could have been employed full-time - 37.

MENTAL HEALTH.

In November, 1960, the new Mental Health Act became operative and two Mental Welfare Officers were given the task of coping with the increased work which the Act places upon local Health Authorities.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF STAFF.

The County Council decided in January, 1962, to revise their scheme whereby all entrants to the superannuation scheme be medically examined and substituted the following:-

(1) All prospective entrants to the scheme be required to complete a questionnaire dealing with personal and family medical history.

(2) There to be a full medical examination of:-

- (i) All prospective entrants over the age of 45 years.
- (ii) All entrants whose completed questionnaire reveals the need for further medical investigation.
- (iii) Applicants whose prospective employment is such that public safety is involved e.g. Fire and Ambulance service drivers.

In 1962, 28 examinations were made.

THE [illegible] OF [illegible]

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Prescribed Particulars required by Section 153(1)

1. Inspections made:

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	3	1	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A.	82	90	8	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding outworkers premises)	2	2	0	0
Total	87	93	8	0

2. Cases in which Defects were found:

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary conveniences S. 7 - Insufficient Unsuitable or defective	3	1	0	1	0
	26	12	0	0	0
All other Defects	0	0	1*	0	0
Total	29	12	1	1	0

* Abstract not posted.

3. Outworkers

Nature of Work (1)	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
Making wearing apparel	1	0	0	0	0	0
Finishing Tapestries	1	0	0	0	0	0
All other work	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	0	0	0	0

J.F. Fraser.

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1963.

BOROUGH OF PONTEFRACT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E N V I R O N M E N T A L H Y G I E N E

in the

Year Ended the Thirty-First December, 1962

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

LEWIS WALSH, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

Municipal Offices,

Pontefract

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Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, 1962

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Twenty-fifth Annual Report. For the purpose of this Introduction, in which comment is made on major aspects of the Department's activities, consideration may be divided into four parts, each occupying roughly the same amount of Departmental time: Housing, Air Pollution, Food Control, and General Hygiene.

Many larger towns would consider themselves fortunate were their populations as well housed as that of Pontefract: a third of the houses are owned by the local authority, built over the past fifty years, and all possess modern amenities; a third of all houses in the Borough have been built since the Hitler war - a third of these owner-occupied; less than 500 houses present any real problem - these being dwellings considered to have less than fifteen years' remaining life, and from which group modest clearance programmes can be periodically drawn.

The Report indicates that during 1962 335 houses were repaired following intervention by the Department, and 67 houses demolished or closed. The former figure is larger than usual because of the additional activity which followed extensive gale damage occurring early in the year. On slum clearance the Report refers to the survey started before the close of the year and made with the view to a further amplification of the clearance programme. At the time of writing proposals have been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and approved. Still more bungalows for elderly persons, and intensification in the provision of standard amenities with grant aid, are further points made.

Under Air Pollution the most important event of 1962 was the establishment of the second smoke control area. A number of difficulties arose; a spell of extremely cold weather was experienced before householders had become accustomed to the use of solid smokeless fuels; bad road conditions delayed the delivery of fuel; members of the mining industry, accustomed to a particularly high degree of house warming, were offered a highly priced 'premium' smokeless fuel in place of the cheaper 'home coal', and found the change expensive. Some of these problems were intensified in Corporation houses by the kind of firegrate provided; a matter which was rectified in due course.

With the increased use of solid smokeless fuels, quality control has assumed greater importance. One edition of Shopper's Guide included a report on these fuels and, in conclusion, expressed the view that the inadequacies of some of the smokeless fuels, as delivered, could jeopardise the implementation of the Clean Air Act. This was no wild statement. Inefficiency in sizing, or excessive moisture content, alone could render the use of smokeless fuels so exasperating as to put some people against clean air activities for all time. But the problem is not simply the indifferent marketing of fuels. Much rethinking has to be done in the whole matter of house warming, and, so far as solid fuels are concerned, the National Coal Board are now undoubtedly giving the lead required.

The uncomplicated and economic use of hard cokes in closed appliances, coupled with the effective dispersal of heat throughout the house, could do much to keep solid fuels in the picture in an age when many housewives prefer to put on a switch, or turn a tap, rather than cope with the practical difficulties arising from the sort of problems to which Shopper's Guide draws attention.

Much of the Department's time is spent on food hygiene in its several aspects, and a major breakthrough can be reported in this connection: after much preliminary work extending over several years, and after an unfortunate series of setbacks and disappointments, the Pontefract Municipal Abattoir became a reality in November 1962. It is true that centralised slaughtering has been in operation in the Borough since 1940, but conditions were always inadequate. Now, for the first time, the Corporation operates in its own building, with its own staff, under ideal conditions providing for the humane treatment of the food animals to be slaughtered, the hygienic preparation of the meat, adequate cold room accommodation for storage, and all necessary facilities for meat inspection and the attendant rejection of any infected or otherwise unsound meat. At the time of writing the Abattoir has been in operation for eight months; teething troubles associated with the adoption of modern equipment and methods have been resolved, and we are now ready for the increased throughput which the next few months are expected to bring.

Under the heading of Occupational Hygiene (Chapter 4 of the Report) I have reported briefly on inspections made under Factories and Shops Acts. Fourteen years have elapsed since publication of the Gowers Report on the health, welfare and safety of employed persons at places of employment other than those regulated under the Factories Act. The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Bill has now received the Royal Assent and this new legislation, together with regulations to be made thereunder, should provide much scope for the Department during the next few years.

Full advantage has been taken of the laboratory facilities available to the Department, and during the year under review 305 specimens and samples were submitted to bacteriological or chemical laboratories. These included water samples for chemical composition and bacterial condition, and swimming baths waters for bacterial condition; milks for the presence of pathogens, heat-treated milks - pasteurised and sterilised - for process efficiency, and milks and milk containers for cleanliness; specimens for confirmation of meat inspection opinions, for food poisoning organisms, etc., and samples of materials taken under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, for cleanliness. One cannot speak too highly of the assistance received from the Medical Research Council Laboratory at Wakefield.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

House Provision and Overcrowding - Fitness of dwellings - Improvement Grants - Certificates of Disrepair - Accidents in the home - Houses in Multi-occupation - Common Lodging houses

House Provision and Overcrowding

Since post-war house building began, 3,409 dwellings have been erected in the Borough - 242 of these during the year under review - as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. New Housing, 1946 - 1962

Year	No. of dwellings erected*					Total
	By the Corporation			By Housing Association	By Private Enterprise	
	Permanent	Temporary	Total			
1946	6	25	31	178 536	23	54
1947	159		159		39	198
1948	161		161		26	187
1949	134		134		11	145
1950	104		104		12	116
1951	86		86		9	95
1952	105		105		11	116
1953	108		108		19	305
1954	73		73		41	650
1955	35		35		47	82
1956	26		26		65	91
1957	88		88		76	164
1958	6		6		140	146
1959	68		68		164	232
1960	107		107		192	299
1961	91		91		185	276
1962	108		108	134	242	
Total	1,465	25	1,490	714	1,194	3,398

*Excluding 38 temporary dwellings, subsequently demolished

In Table 2 the numbers of Corporation houses built 1947-1961 are given in four-year periods for comparison with the 1962 figure of 108.

Table 2. Corporation Building, 1947 - 1962

Period	No. of dwellings built by Corporation	Yearly Average
1946-49	460	115
1950-53	403	101
1954-57	222	56
1958-61	272	68
Total	1,357	85

Only a detailed survey would indicate accurately the housing needs of the town. The last one was made shortly after the Housing Act of 1935 introduced specific legislation to deal with overcrowding. A second one could provide useful information on present day conditions. In the absence of precise information one can turn only to statistics relating to applicants for Corporation tenancies.

At the end of 1962 the number of such applicants, living in the Borough, was 1,245, many of whom, when due for investigation by the Housing Department, will have found other accommodation. Of these 1,245 applicants, 560 are persons living in lodgings at the time of application, and 271 are elderly persons seeking accommodation more suited to their needs. Only 55 of the latter were living in lodgings, and the provision of a sufficient number of new units specific to the needs of the elderly would release much under-occupied accommodation and contribute substantially to the general housing need. The 84 bungalows already provided for elderly persons, supplemented by 77 bed-sitter flats - mostly let to elderly people - are clearly inadequate to meet the demand, and further units are under construction. Table 3 indicates the progress now being made in the provision of dwellings for the elderly.

Table.3. Housing of Elderly Persons

In the year -	No. of 'elderly person' units in the Borough	As % of all Corporation housing
1940	18	1.3
1950	32	1.7
1960	85	3.2
1962	161	6.0

The Council have not confined their considerations merely to the quantitative aspect of this problem. Their schemes at Churchbalk and Mill Garth indicate a concern for the comfort and welfare of the elderly which is wholly commendable.

In this Report 'statutory overcrowding' refers to the gross state of over-occupation which constitutes an offence under the Housing Act, 1957. Such overcrowding occurs when the number of persons sleeping in a house exceeds the 'permitted number' of persons, as given in the rent book. The number of cases found and abated during the past five years are given in Table 4.

Table 4. Incidence and Abatement of Statutory Overcrowding

No. of cases	Year				
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
On register at beginning of year	5	2	3	2	1
Added to register during the year	5	2	0	0	1
Abated during the year	8	1	1	1	2
On register at end of year	2	3	2	1	0

These figures may appear to be impressively low and, without explanation, could be misleading. The statutory standard was laid down 26 years ago and, in my opinion, fails completely to measure up to modern ideas on the subject. Because of this low standard many families of only four or five persons, having insufficient bedroom accommodation and being clearly in need of rehousing, do not qualify for the statutory priority accorded to 'over-crowded' applicants for local authority tenancies. It may well be that a higher standard, nationally applied, would create problems in some of our cities, but should the smaller communities have to 'mark time' until the whole country is ready for a new standard?

Fitness of dwellings

Forty-nine unfit houses were demolished and eighteen closed, and 335 were repaired or improved during the year as the result of action taken by the Department. Particulars of housing activities are summarised below:-

1. Inspection of houses -

(1)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	438
(2)	Number of inspections made in this connection (initial inspections, re-visits, works in progress, etc.)	1,340
(3)	Number of houses (included in (1) above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	149
(4)	Houses needing further action:	
	(a) Number considered to be unfit for human habitation	69
	(b) Number (excluding those in (a) above) considered to be not in all respect reasonably fit	344

2. Remedy of defective conditions -

(1)	Houses made fit, or in which defects were remedied, as a result of informal action	333
(2)	Houses rendered fit, or in which defects were remedied, as a result of formal action:	
	(a) Housing Act	0
	(b) Public Health Act	2

3. Clearance, etc. of houses -

(1)	Action taken in respect of Clearance Areas:	
	(a) Number of new areas declared	0
	(b) Number of families displaced	11
	(c) Number of persons involved	36
	(d) Number of houses (in clearance areas only) demolished	11

(2)	Action taken in respect of Individual Unfit houses:	
(a)	Number represented to Council	30
(b)	Number in respect of which -	
(i)	Demolition Orders were made	4
(ii)	Closing Orders were made	20
(c)	Number of families displaced	36
(d)	Number of persons involved	124
(e)	Number of houses closed on Closing Orders or Undertakings	11
(f)	Number of individual unfit houses demolished	36
(3)	Action taken in respect of unfit houses purchased by the Corporation:	
(a)	Number of houses acquired and demolished	2
(b)	Number of houses acquired and closed	7
(c)	Number of temporary bungalows demolished	9
(d)	Number of families displaced from unfit houses	18
(e)	Number of persons involved	55

Slur Clearance Programme

The Corporation's proposals submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government in March 1960 in pursuance of section 2(2) of the Housing Act, 1957, amplified their original proposals submitted under the Act, bringing the total number of unfit houses it was proposed to demolish to 312. At the end of 1962, the year under review, action had been initiated in respect of all these houses. Moreover, as several of the families displaced did not avail themselves of Corporation rehousing, an additional 42 houses were also dealt with, making 354 in all.

At the end of 1962, 308 houses had been vacated, although demolition or other treatment had been completed in only 288 cases. Table 5 gives particulars of progress since the inception of the proposals.

At the close of the year a survey of the town was being made with the view to further clearance proposals being formulated.

Table 5. Slum Clearance Proposals: Progress Report

	Year of Programme:							
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	Total
No. of houses in respect of which formal action was initiated -								
(a) In Clearance Areas	0	21	0	79	50	0	0	150
(b) Individual Unfit houses	16	66	8	10	42	11	30	183
(c) Purchased by Council	0	0	0	0	19	0	2	21
Total	16	87	8	89	111	11	32	354
No. of houses vacated -								
(d) By Council rehousing	4	57	22	35	66	45	56	285
(e) Otherwise	4	3	3	2	8	2	1	23
Total	8	60	25	37	74	47	57	308
No. of houses in respect of which action was completed -								
(f) Closed (and not subsequently demolished)	2	13	6	4	15	19	2	61
(g) Demolished	0	15	43	15	80	20	47	220
(h) Reconstructed as fit houses	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	7
Total	2	28	49	24	97	39	49	288

Rent Act, 1957. Certificate of Disrepair

Table 6 gives particulars of applications dealt with by the Council since the Act came into operation. Tenants seem to find the provisions of this Act relating to rent abatement either too intricate to understand or just not worth the effort.

Table 6. Certificates of Disrepair Statistics

	1957 July-Dec.	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	Total
No. of applications for certificates of disrepair	15	14	3	2	1	0	35
No. of decisions not to issue certificates	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
No. of decisions to issue certificates if no undertaking given to remedy	9	17	3	1	1	0	31
No. of undertakings given by landlords	2	17	2	0	1	0	22
No. of undertakings not accepted by Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of certificates issued	0	6	1	2	0	0	9
No. of applications for cancellation of certificates (all granted)	0	1	1	1	2	0	5

Improvement Grants

In suitable cases the Standard Grant can be claimed as a right. It is intended to encourage owners to modernise houses having a useful life of at least fifteen years and to which, without structural additions involving much new building work, there can be added the 'standard amenities' not already provided. The standard amenities are (a) a fixed bath or shower in a bathroom; (b) a wash-hand basin; (c) a hot water supply; (d) an internal watercloset and (e) satisfactory facilities for storing food.

The Discretionary grant is available for more extensive improvement. It is intended to apply to property which has a life of at least thirty years. A grant is paid solely at the discretion of the authority and, in addition to the 'standard amenities', may provide for the improvement of lighting, ventilation, heating and cooking facilities, and for works necessary to eliminate certain inherent structural defects.

During 1962 sixteen applications for grant were made - 14 Standard, and 2 Discretionary. One of the former had to be rejected. In six cases improvements were completed during 1962. Since grants first became available some 14 years ago 93 houses have been improved with the aid of grants from the Corporation. Further particulars are given in the following Table.

Table 7. Improvement Grants: Applications and Results *

Year	No. of Applications -						No. of approved applications withdrawn				Grants actually made		
	Discretionary			Standard			Dis.	Stan.	No.	£	Total amount		
	Made	Approved	Rejected	Made	Approved	Rejected					Discretionary	Standard	
													No.
1954	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1955	22	19	4	-	-	3	-	-	317	-	-	-	
1956	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1,559	-	-	-	
1957	10	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	245	-	-	-	
1958	11	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	1,099	-	-	-	
1959	20	12	8	12	11	1	-	-	1,960	-	-	-	
1960	5	5	-	24	23	1	1	1	1,254	20	2,098		
1961	4	-	4	9	8	1	-	-	243	15	1,849		
1962	2	2	-	14	13	1	-	-	155	5	564		
Total	80	56	24	59	55	4	4	1	6,832	40	4,511		

* No applications were made prior to 1954.

In September the Council gave consideration to Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 42/62 asking for further effort on the part of local authorities to secure the improvement of houses. The Minister suggested that if owners were willing to sell to the Corporation any houses which were suitable for improvement, they should purchase and improve them. If owners were unwilling either to sell or to improve, the Minister would be prepared to consider the use of compulsory purchase.

The Corporation decided to continue their existing policy of publicising generally the improvement grant facilities available, but not, at the present time, to take the action recommended in connection with the formulation of area improvement schemes, or with the purchase of houses for improvement.

Accidents in the Home

Bad housing conditions have a considerable bearing on the problem of accidents in the home, and, when housing inspections are carried out, this is borne in mind. Disrepair can be a direct cause of accidents, and the remedy of defective fireplaces, floors, window sash cords, and the like, presents no problem; but in the case of such defects as ill-lighted staircases, badly-sited external toilets, and obsolete types of heating appliances - unless these occur in property which can be rectified by improvement grant, action must necessarily be deferred until clearance becomes possible. Over-heating and bad ventilation - resulting in fatigue - are matters which can be pointed out to tenants; but over-occupation, another relevant factor, is less readily solved in the continuing housing shortage.

The Department is further interested in this problem, having responsibility for administering locally The Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952, and Regulations made thereunder. These Regulations require fireguards to be fitted to gas and electric fires and oil heaters designed for domestic use and so constructed that, without a guard, there would be likelihood of injury by burning, or ignition of clothing. The Regulations prescribe standard tests for construction and performance. The co-operation of manufacturers has reduced the need for official action to a minimum.

Several authorities have suggested some system of notification of home accidents to enable defective conditions to be remedied more quickly. Any attempt to provide an answer to a problem which, every year, takes some two million people to hospital - even though the great majority are for out-patient treatment only - would be well worth while.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

The problems arising from multi-occupation occur mainly in the larger towns, and the squalid conditions which resulted in the passing of Part II of the Housing Act of 1961 and the Housing Regulations of 1962 are not to be found in the Borough. The bulk of the one-time high class residential property which, in old age, lends itself to multiple occupation, has largely disappeared as the result of slum clearance and commercial development. One case of multi-occupation came to the notice of the Department and appropriate action was being taken at the end of the year.

Common Lodging Houses

The Ministry of Health ask for information about common lodging houses. There are no such premises in the Borough, the last having been demolished over a decade ago.

Section 235 of the Public Health Act, 1936 defines a common lodging house as a house provided for the purpose of accommodating by night poor persons, not being members of the same family, who resort thereto and are allowed to occupy one common room for the purposes of sleeping or eating. There is no evidence of need for such premises in the Borough in these days.

AIR POLLUTION

General Conditions - Industrial Pollution -
Smoke Control Areas - Smoke from railways -
Road vehicle pollution

General Conditions

Pontefract is officially included in the West Riding Black Area. This indicates a disturbing level of atmospheric pollution, and calls for concerted action by all classes of fuel users to minimise pollution, irrespective of source. Unnecessary smoke from industry, domestic premises, rail and road vehicles must be prevented as and when the opportunity presents itself. It would be illogical to slow down activity in any one of these classes because little was apparently being done in another.

Industrial Smoke

Only a few years ago it was accepted that industry was responsible for more than half the smoke emitted in the country as a whole. The latest figures available - those for 1961 - indicate that industry, including railways, now produces only one fifth of the total smoke emission. It must be considerably less than this in our own Borough which, with only 17 industrial chimneys, has little industrial smoke problem.

At one factory where smoke emission could be kept within the prescribed legal limit only with more than normal care, modern mechanical stoking plant was installed in November 1962, since which no difficulty has been experienced.

Only three of the industrial boiler plants in the Borough are hand fired, and representations have been made to the firms concerned recommending mechanisation. At the time of writing orders have been placed in two cases, and is under active consideration in the third. At one factory where mechanical stoking has been in use over many years smoke is being emitted, not at present in excess of the Regulations, but with little margin to spare. The management has placed an order for modernisation of the plant in this case.

Smoke Control Areas

The Pontefract (No.2) Smoke Control Order, 1961, became operative on 1st October, 1962. At that date there were 660 houses in the Area. 425 were 'new houses' within the meaning of the Clean Air Act, and any adaptations of fireplaces which were necessary did not rank for grant aid. Twelve of the remaining 235 'old houses' were already smokeless, leaving 223 eligible for grant, providing approved works were carried out before the 1st October. In 200 of these cases grant became due and was paid. Table 8 gives particulars of the costs incurred. The average costs per house in which grant-aided works were carried out are as follows:-

	£. s.
Cost of approved works (excluding cost of works done by owners in excess of the Department's requirements)	23. 10.
Part of the sum borne by -	
(a) The owner	7. 1.
(b) The Corporation (net figure)	7. 1.
(c) The Exchequer	9. 8.

Table 8. Schedule of Approved Costs incurred in Adapting and Replacing Fireplaces

A. Number and Cost of New Appliances Installed *						
	Open fires	Gas or Electric Fires	Open fires with boilers	Gas or Electric Cookers	Other	Totals
No. of Appliances	170	44	10	5	2	231
Total Cost of Appliances	£ 781	£ 435	£ 114	£ 130	£ 11	£ 1,471
Total Cost of works of installation	£ 1,502	£ 171	£ 226	£ 32	£ 8	£ 1,939

* Extra costs involved in the installation of superior appliances, borne by owners, are excluded

B. Cost of Other Works not attributable to Installation of New Appliances			
Adaptation of existing appliances	Total Cost	Provision of only gas and electric points	Total Cost £
No. of appliances		No. of Points	
150	£ 1,205	19	£ 82

C. Summary of expenses for calculation of Exchequer contribution			
Total Approved Cost	Local Authority's Expenses	Exchequer Contribution	
£	£	£	
4,697	£ 3,288	£ 1,879	

There are now two smoke control areas in operation in the Borough. The following Table gives particulars of buildings and acreage involved.

Table 9. Smoke Control Area Progress

No. of Order	No. of premises involved				% of houses in Borough	Area	% of acreage in Borough
	Dwellings	Industrial	Commercial etc.	Total			
1	88	19	101	208	1.14	44	0.90
2	660	1	9	670	7.86	567	11.65

Smoke Control Area Programme

In response to Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 5/59 issued in January 1959 the Council had approved in principle a five-year programme which involved the creation of six smoke control areas, comprising some 2,000 houses, by the end of 1963.

In April, 1962, when reviewing the matter in the light of a further ministerial circular asking for greater activity in the 'black areas', the Council resolved to adhere to their existing policy, but to leave over for the time being the existing target date.

When the Council considered a further circular issued in December, 1962, again urging increased activity, they resolved that the establishment of a third smoke control area be deferred for three months, although I was authorised to continue with the survey of the area, upon which I hope to report in 1963.

The byelaws requiring heating appliances in new buildings to be designed for burning smokeless fuels have now been in operation for four years. Solid fuel appliances in some 1,200 houses built during that period will, therefore, need no adaptation before inclusion in smoke control areas. The byelaws do not, however, require means for ignition to be provided, and purchasers of new houses should bear this point in mind, and ensure that suitable ignition points are provided. The Department will be glad to advise.

In Corporation houses 830 heating appliances of obsolete types have been replaced during the past seven years. When the appropriate time arrives the absorption of these properties into smoke control areas should likewise present no problem.

Smoke from Railways

Under the Clean Air Act the owner of any railway locomotive engine is required to use any practicable means there may be for minimising the emission of smoke from the chimney on the engine. I have taken up this matter with British Railways, in particular in relation to locomotives passing through the No. 2 Smoke Control Area, and have received satisfactory assurances.

Road Vehicle Pollution

Unlike railway smoke, road vehicle pollution is not dealt with under the Clean Air Act, but by Regulations made under the Road Traffic Act. Since April, 1955, Regulations have required every motor vehicle to be so constructed that no avoidable smoke is emitted. Regulations made in

1957 require that no person shall use any motor vehicle from which smoke is emitted which is likely to cause damage to property, or injure or cause danger to a road user. Further Regulations were made controlling the use of excess fuel starting devices. These Regulations are administered by the Police. One hears too infrequently of offenders being taken to Court, but it must be conceded that the statutory approach to the problem of road vehicle pollution is that of public safety and not public health.

Chapter Three

FOOD HYGIENE

Meat Supply - Milk and Milk Products -
Food Inspection and Sampling - Food
Premises and Processing - Sale of Food
in the Open - Disposal of unfit food

Meat Supply

It gives me great pleasure to be able to record the opening of the Municipal Abattoir, Water Lane, Knottingley Road, in November, 1962. The site of the abattoir extends over almost two acres of grassland situate between Knottingley Road and Water Lane. The latter has been widened over part of its length to accommodate cattle transporters. The entrance for livestock is separate from that used by vehicles transporting carcasses and edible offals away from the premises, and the premises are sited so as to prevent any of the operations in the slaughterhall being seen from dwellinghouses, or from the public highway.

The lairage is so constructed as to enable it to be readily cleansed. There is ample provision for natural and artificial light, and for ventilation. Drainage is effected by gullies at strategic points, and fitted with galvanised bucket traps to intercept solid matter. Set aside from the main lairage are isolation pens for animals suspected of disease. There are facilities in each pen for the automatic watering of animals, and built-in fodder racks are provided. The total capacity of the lairage is of the order of 65 cattle units. Provision for grazing cattle is made in large paddocks adjoining the lairage. Pens are in tubular steel, with gates designed to act as directional guides to animals moving along the passages, and double action to facilitate movement in and out of pens.

The slaughterhall, 33' x 25', is divided into two parts: the main slaughterhall and a pre-cooling area. Carcasses are hung in the latter while initial body-heat is dispersed, before removal into the cooling hall. The slaughterhall is adequately provided with natural light, having a window area to floor area ratio of 1:4. Ventilation is afforded by openable windows suitably protected with flyproof covers, and by extractor fans.

The layout is based on a modified form of the 'Line' system. The stunning pen for pigs and sheep is separated from the main slaughterhall by swing doors so that no animal will see the slaughterhall. Stunning is by electrolethalers. From the stunning pen, pigs and sheep are moved mechanically over a bleeding trough. Pigs then pass by overhead rail to scalding tank, dehairer and dressing table. From there they are hoisted to the main rail for evisceration, cleaning and despatch to the pre-cooling area. Sheep, after leaving the bleeding trough, are cratch-dressed.

Cattle are stunned in a metal-clad stunning pen, and hoisted to bleed. Dressing takes place at a point away from the bleeding area and, after the removal of viscera and hide - to rooms specific to these purposes - the carcass is hoisted for sawing and final cleansing, and passes into the pre-cooling area. An important innovation for the speedy and hygienic removal of hides is the use of electric de-hiding machines.

Hot water is supplied from an insulated tank electrically heated and containing 500 gallons of mains water. This supply, thermostatically controlled, gives the bulk of the water needed at 'off peak' rates. The pig scalding tank is fitted with thermostatically controlled immersion heaters. A sterilisation unit for knives, cleavers, etc. is provided in the slaughterhall; also a staff wash basin and electric hand drier.

The slaughtering facilities provided could deal with a maximum of 65 cattle units per day, depending on the class of animal dealt with, and the number of staff employed. The pre-cooling area will hold 20 cattle units at one time.

A carcase detention room for post-mortem examinations, is provided adjacent to the sawing down point in the slaughterhall.

The cooling hall, with an area of 520 sq.ft., is designed to accommodate a maximum kill at a temperature of 43° Fah. Three cold air blowers deliver an air blast from near ceiling height. On leaving the cooling hall carcases pass to an overhead weigh rail prior to quartering and loading.

Until the opening of the new Abattoir slaughtering continued at the Newtown premises leased from Pontefract Industrial Co-operative Society Limited. The following Table gives throughputs since 1955. The figures indicate the increase in throughput during 1961 and 1962, and the consequent strain placed on the Newtown facilities.

Table 10. Throughput - ¹²~~Six~~ monthly periods

Year	Throughput		
	Total Number of Cattle Units*	Weekly average Number of Cattle Units	% of Nominal Capacity at Newtown
1955	2,503	48	80
1956	3,238	62	103
1957	3,168	60	100
1958	3,405	65	109
1959	3,340	64	107
1960	3,216	61	101
1961	4,625	89	148
1962	5,757	110	183

* One cattle unit is equivalent to three calves, five sheep or two pigs.

Table 11 gives particulars of throughput during the year reviewed, together with the 1961 figures, for comparative purposes. The 1962 throughput of 13,253 animals (5,757 cattle units) against the 1961 throughput of 11,132 (4,625 cattle units) represents an increase of 23%.

4 weeks ended	Throughput: No. of animals of the classes named -										Mean weekly no. of Cattle units	
	Cattle		Calves		Sheep		Pigs		Total			
	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961
28th January	169	108	2	4	492	334	359	237	1022	683	112	73
25th February	142	133	2	2	375	332	357	296	876	763	99	87
25th March	152	123	2	4	321	247	357	295	832	669	98	80
22nd April	164	119	1	6	287	288	457	333	909	746	112	86
20th May	162	115	1	6	261	376	332	327	756	824	95	89
17th June	149	117	-	2	347	391	362	232	858	742	99	78
15th July	153	119	2	1	428	467	376	250	959	837	106	84
12th August	153	111	3	3	667	437	368	232	1191	783	118	79
9th September	134	115	3	5	634	550	406	267	1177	937	116	90
7th October	154	120	-	4	608	549	358	281	1120	954	114	93
4th November	169	136	4	1	688	631	382	351	1243	1119	125	119
2nd December	156	133	2	1	605	649	372	326	1135	1109	108	104
30th December	132	102	-	-	448	406	595	459	1175	967	129	103
Near Average	153	119	2	3	474	435	391	299	1019	856	110	89

All carcasses, organs and viscera of animals passing through the Public Slaughterhouses were inspected, and those found to be diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption were, after treatment with a green dye to prevent any possibility of subsequent use for human consumption, removed to a local factory for sterilisation and conversion into useful commodities.

A total of 5 carcasses, 8 parts of carcasses and 475 organs and parts were condemned, their total weight being 1 ton 7 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lbs. Table 12 gives particulars of the various classes of animals inspected and of condemnations.

Table 12. Record of Meat Inspection and Incidence of Disease

Class of Animal	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,902	80	21	6,139	5,092
Number inspected	1,902	80	21	6,139	5,092
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci:					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	1	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	165	4	1	159	208
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	8.67%	5.00%	4.76%	2.60%	3.96%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	0	0	0	0
Percentage of the animals inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.15%	-	-	-	-
Cysticerci:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11	0	0	0	0
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	0	0	0	0
Generalised and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0

In the following Table the incidence of tuberculosis in food animals slaughtered in the Borough is given for 1950, 1955, 1960, 1961 and 1962. These are sufficient to show the falling incidence of this disease.

Table 13. Incidence of Tuberculosis in Food Animals

Incidence of Tuberculosis	Year				
	1950	1955	1960	1961	1962
% of Animals affected -					
Cattle excluding cows	17.8	9.3	0.7	0.1	0.15
Cows	50.8	16.3	4.1	1.5	-
Pigs	5.9	2.1	0.7	0.3	-
No. of whole carcasses condemned -					
Cattle excluding cows	9	1	0	0	0
Cows	31	1	0	0	0
Pigs	3	0	0	0	0

The 12 beast carcasses found to be affected with cysticercosis give a percentage incidence of 0.63. In 11 cases where cysts were localised and degenerate, carcasses were passed as fit after jointing and detailed inspection. In one case the cysts were viable, the invasion was localised and, before being released for human consumption, carcase and unaffected organs were subjected to controlled refrigeration. Table 14 gives comparative figures of incidence over the past five years.

Table 14. Incidence of Cysticercus bovis

Year	No. of cases	% Incidence
1958	34	2.89
1959	20	1.98
1960	6	0.55
1961	16	1.08
1962	12	0.63

Fatstock Guarantee Scheme

Throughout the year the Slaughterhouse continued to operate as a Certified Deadweight Centre for the purposes of the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme, under which guarantee payments are made to producers of livestock under Part I of the Agriculture Act, 1947. To qualify for guarantee payment fatstock must be certified by authorised officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. This is a convenient arrangement for producers who do not need to use the livestock markets.

Milk Supply

As required by Article 8 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, a register is kept of all persons carrying on the trade of milk distributor from premises in the Borough, and of all premises in the district which are used as dairies (except dairy farms, which are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries). Table 15 gives particulars of the changes which took place during the year and of the position at the end of the year.

Table 15. Registration of Dairies and Milk Distributors

Particulars of changes	Dairies	Distributors	
		From Shops*	Others
No. on register at 1st January	4	53	10
No. in respect of which new applications were made	0	3	1
No. in respect of which applicant was refused on public health grounds	0	0	0
No. added to register	0	3	1
No. removed from register			
(a) Trading ceased	0	3	1
(b) On public health grounds	0	0	0
No. on register at 31st December	4	53	10

* Only bottled 'Sterilised' milk sold in these cases

Generally, the standard of distribution is satisfactory. Minor violations of the Milk and Dairies Regulations have not necessitated formal action. Conditions at the dairies were satisfactory.

The use of a special designation (Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised) and the holding of the appropriate licence under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations is obligatory upon all milk retailers in the Borough. This has been the case for some years in consequence of the inclusion of the Borough in a 'Specified Area' made by Order of the Ministers of Agriculture and Health. The retailing of non-designation milks in the area is an offence. In June 1962 The Special Designation (Specified Areas) (No.2) Order came into operation under which the whole of England and Wales became a specified area.

Seventeen samples of milk of various grades, bottled ready for sale, were taken during the course of the year for examination for compliance with the standards laid down by the Regulations. All were satisfactory.

The use of cartons increases, largely through sales from vending machines, but distribution is still based on the returnable glass container. An important aspect of hygienic milk control is, therefore, the cleansing of bottles before re-use. Washed bottles taken periodically from the local bottling dairy and examined bacteriologically all reached a high standard. Despite all the elaborate precautions taken, the odd dirty bottle - so misused by a consumer that the most efficient of washing machines fails to clean it - gets through to the next consumer. An electronic detector now on the market will reject unclean bottles; but if the economics of the Industry allow it, a change over to non-returnable cartons would solve this and other problems.

Table 16. Graded Milks: Sampling Records

Grade of milk	Test Applied			
	Methylene Blue*	Phosphatase**	Turbidity**	Biological***
Pasteurised	6	6	-	-
Sterilised	-	-	3	-
T.T. Pasteurised	2	2	-	-
T.T.	4	-	-	2

* For cleanliness and keeping quality

** For efficient heat treatment

*** For presence of tubercle

Ice-Cream Manufacture and Sale

As required by Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, a register is kept of all premises used for the sale, manufacture or storage for sale of ice-cream. Table 17 gives particulars of the changes which took place during the year, and of the position at the end of the year.

Table 17. Registration of Ice-Cream Premises

	Sale and storage	Manufacture sale and storage
No. on register at 1st January	101	2
No. in respect of which new applications were made	2	0
No. in respect of which application was refused	-	-
No. of registrations cancelled -		
(a) following offences	0	0
(b) ceased to trade	0	0
No. of changes of occupation in registered premises notific.	5	0
No. on register at 31st December	103	2

The two registered ice-cream factories are not in use as such, and all ice-cream sold in the Borough is made elsewhere. Eleven manufacturers are registered to sell their ice-cream from vehicles in the Borough. Such vehicles must meet the standard laid down by the Council, which includes the provision of a hot water unit for handwashing, and other measures for preventing contamination of the ice-cream. No offences under the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations in relation to storage for sale have been noted.

There is no test for the bacteriological grading of ice-cream which is considered satisfactory for use as a statutory test, but on the Provisional Grading at present in use, the 32 samples of ice-cream taken during the year may be grouped as follows:

Table 18. Ice-Cream Grading

Grades	Official Standard	Local figures for the year 1962	
		No.	Percentage
1	Not less than 50%	27	84%
1 and 2	Not less than 80%	30	94%
3	Not more than 20%	2	6%
4	0	0	-

All the Grade 3 samples came from the same source (outside the Borough) and representations were made to the authority concerned.

General Food Inspection and Sampling

In addition to the inspection of meat at the Public Slaughterhouse, shops were visited from time to time for the inspection of meat and other foods. Over the period under review the following total quantities of unfit food were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

1,264 lbs.	meats
39 lbs.	fruit
18 cartons	cheese
13 lbs.	tomatoes
15 lbs.	miscellaneous foods

Certificates were issued to traders in 122 cases, enabling them to claim from wholesalers for loss of foods condemned.

A number of foods were submitted to bacteriological examination during the year. These included: coco-nut, artificial cream and made-up meats. The results obtained, although of no statutory significance, assisted in investigations which were being made into the conditions under which food was being prepared.

Food Premises

The conditions under which food for sale is prepared and handled in the 328 factories, warehouses, shops, restaurants and hotels in the Borough, occupies much of the Department's time.

The numbers of the different classes of food premises as at the end of the year, are given in Table 19.

Table 19. Food Premises according to Trade

Class of Premises or Nature of Business	Manufacture or Preparation	Distribution	Total
General Grocer		87	87
Bread and Cakes	6	8	14
Sugar Confectioner	4	22	26
Greengrocer, fish game and poultry	2	19	21
Butcher and meat preparation	21	23	44
Chemists		6	6
Fish Frying	17		17
Public Houses and clubs		51	51
Off licence premises		8	8
Cafes, snack bars and canteens	35		35
Church premises (kitchens)	6		6
Beer and mineral water bottling	3		3
Miscellaneous	2	8	10
Totals	96	232	328

One hundred and twenty-four of these premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955; 103 of these, as already indicated, are ice-cream premises: the remaining 21 being registered for the manufacture of made-up meats etc.

Table 20 gives figures indicative of the Department's activities in this field since the coming into operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations in July, 1956.

Table 20. Inspection of Food Premises

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
No. of visits paid to food premises	93	294	182	122	110	148	90
No. of food rooms inspected	199	392	475	349	195	352	271
No. of offences noted under Food Hygiene Regulations	313	545	541	179	44	26	51
No. of offences outstanding at end of year	228	197	278	68	22	20	47

Increased activity in other aspects of food control have resulted in a recession in the visitation of food premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations. The 271 food rooms inspected during the year is 80 less than the average number seen annually in the previous five years. No grossly defective conditions were discovered: the 51 offences noted were frequently minor items of neglect which, nevertheless, were indicative of the casual approach of some traders to the subject of food hygiene. In this respect the importance of education, as against enforcement, must continue to figure prominently in the Department's activities. It is one thing, for example, to enforce the provision of wash-hand basins on food premises: it is another thing to ensure that they are used solely for personal washing, or even used at all. The need to break any possible chain of infection between the food handler and the food handled must clearly be stressed in such cases. Food hygiene education is time consuming, and the task is not made easier by the inevitable movement of staff and, in particular, the entry of young persons as raw recruits into the food trades. Is it too much to ask for a short course of training as a prerequisite to taking up work for the first time as a food handler?

Sale of Food in the Open Air

As required by section 76(1) of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, registers are kept of persons hawking food in the Borough, and of Hawkers' storage premises. Table 21 gives particulars of the changes which took place during the year under review, and of the position at the end of the year.

Table 21. Registration of Food Hawkers and Storage Premises

Particulars of changes	Hawkers	Storage Premises
No. on Register at 1st January	61	4
No. in respect of which new applications were made	5	0
No. in respect of which application was refused	0	0
No. of registrations revoked -		
(a) Following offences	0	0
(b) Ceased to trade	3	0
No. on register at 31st December	63	4

On food premises a high standard of food hygiene can be obtained providing the basic needs of adequate accommodation and services are satisfied. In outside trading, whether it be from a market stall or a mobile shop, these needs are normally met at only minimal level. The number of purpose-built mobile shops is gradually rising, but even in these space is necessarily at a minimum, artificial lighting can be woefully inadequate, and a limited hot water supply can encourage its conservation rather than use.

Having made this point I must add that the general standards of outdoor sale in the Borough are reasonably satisfactory within the limitations referred to. One exception was the case of a Bolton firm who started to sell 'hamburgers' and 'hot dogs' from vehicles in streets of the Borough in the late evenings. The Council promised legal proceedings unless trading ceased until their requirements relating to lighting, screening, washing and cleansing facilities were satisfied. The firm preferred to leave the Borough rather than meet the standard required. After experiencing, over a period of ten years, the difficulty of keeping track on some traders, I am of opinion that a system of annual licensing would be more useful and, administratively, more acceptable than registration.

Table 22 analyses the number of registered food hawkers according to the various classes of trade.

Table 22. Food Hawkers according to trade

Trade	No. Registered		
	At 31st Dec. 1962	Added during 1962	Removed during 1962
Butcher	15	0	0
Grocer	3	0	0
Greengrocer	17	1	2
Fishmonger	3	2	1
Confectioner	6	0	0
Ice-Cream	10	2	0
Mobile Canteen	1	0	0
Butcher and Grocer	1	0	0
Grocer, butcher, fish and fruit	1	0	0
Grocer and confectioner	5	0	0
Fish and Greengrocer	1	0	0
Total	63	5	3

Disposal of Unfit Food

All unfit food should be disposed of in such a manner that it cannot later, by accident or otherwise, be used for human consumption. In particular the disposal of diseased meat from slaughterhouses, and of all knacker meat, should be under strict control.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960 require, with certain exceptions, that unfit meat shall be sterilised, and all knacker meat stained or sterilised, before entering the chain of distribution as pet food, or for processing for any purpose. The principal exception is unfit meat from slaughterhouses which do not have their own sterilisation plant; such meat must be sent to processors under arrangements approved by the appropriate public health officers.

A great deal of unfit meat is brought into the Borough for sterilisation at factories referred to later in this Report under the heading of Offensive Trades. Co-ordination between the Department and the source authorities has been maintained; every effort has been made to ensure compliance with the Regulations at all collecting points; and I am satisfied that the chances of unfit meat being diverted into the wrong channels are remote.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations have been strongly criticised because they permit raw knacker meat, which has been merely stained, to reach the retail pet foods market. Such a practice is clearly a potential danger to public health. In Pontefract, however, such danger is at a minimum since Byelaws were made in 1953 which forbid the retail sale of raw knacker meat.

Chapter Four

OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE

Factories - Outworkers - Agricultural
employment - Shops - Offices - Other
Workplaces

The Department shares responsibility for hygiene and welfare in places of employment with the Factory Inspectorate of the Home Office and the Shops Act Authority. So far as non-industrial premises are concerned new legislation has (at the time of writing) been made which will increase the local authorities' responsibilities. New standards are to be proscribed by Regulation, and the present is, therefore, to some extent, a period of marking time so far as non-industrial premises are concerned. The next few years should see a considerable expansion in this section of the Report.

Factories

The term 'factory' as used in the Factories Act, 1937, includes all premises where articles are made, altered or repaired for purposes of gain, and I append a list of the different trades carried on at factories in the Borough:-

Automobile engineering	Furniture manufacture
Baking	and polishing
Barley processing	Glue and size making
Beer and mineral water	Grain and seed processing
bottling	Laundering
Blacksmithery	Liquorice confectionery
Boot repairing	manufacture and packing
Box and packing material	Malting
manufacture	Milk pasteurisation
Brush making	Monumental masonry
Building	Photography
Cattle food manufacture	Printing
Clothes manufacture	Saddlery
Coal-gas distribution	Sawmill
Engineering	Slaughter of food animals
Fat refining	Tailoring
Fellmongering	Tinsmithery
Founding	Upholstery
	Whitesmithery
	Wire goods manufacture

The register of Factories, kept by the Council pursuant to section 8(3) of the Act, contains particulars of 85 factories, and Table 23 gives information relating to inspections, notices and defects found and remedied.

Table 23. Factories Records - 1962

	Number on Register	Inspect- ions made	Number of written notices	Defects	
				Found	Remedied
(1) Factories without mechanical power (sections 1 to 4 and 6 and 7 of the Act enforced by local authorities)	3	1	0	0	0
(2) Factories with mechanical power (section 7 enforced by local authorities)	82	90	8	29	12
Total	85	91	8	29	12
(3) Other premises (section 7 enforced by local authorities)	2	2	0	0	0
Totals	87	93	8	29	12

The frequent inspection of factories with mechanical power is not considered necessary in view of the visits made by H.M. Factory Inspectors, who refer relevant matters to the Corporation. One offence was so referred during 1962. The Department comments on plans submitted for new development, and inspections are made when factories are visited in the course of other duties, such as food hygiene. In two cases it was found necessary to warn occupiers of factories that unless certain works were done (section 7) within one month legal proceedings would be instituted. The warning notices were complied with.

Workplaces

The term 'workplace' as used in the Public Health Act, 1936, comprises offices, restaurant kitchens and various other premises in which persons are employed; but excludes factories and (except for 'overcrowding' purposes) shops to which the Shops Act, 1950, applies. When unsatisfactory conditions have come to notice the requisite remedial measures have been taken.

Shops

The term 'shop' includes warehouses used in connection with wholesale or retail trade, refreshment houses, lending libraries and hairdressing establishments. 432 shop premises are listed on the Register, and the Shops Act, 1950, applies to some two-thirds of these. 48 visits for the investigation of welfare arrangements were made in 1962.

Agricultural Holdings

There are in the Borough 32 holdings to which the Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956, applies. Since the coming into operation of the Act, all these have been visited. Re-inspection during the year under review was carried out at 26 premises, when no cause for serious complaint was noted.

Chapter Five

HYGIENE IN PLACES OF PUBLIC RESORT

Swimming Baths - Refreshment Houses -
Hairdressing Establishments

Public Swimming Baths - Bacterial Control of Water

The two swimming baths (adults' and children's indoor baths) are filled at the beginning of each season from the public supply, and operate on the continuous filtration system, with sterilisation by chlorination. Samples were taken regularly to ensure the maintenance of satisfactory conditions. 95 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and chemical tests made on each sampling occasion to check 'free chlorine' content and alkalinity. The results, given in Table 24 along with the respective standards recommended by the Ministry of Health, indicate the high standard maintained.

Table 24. Swimming Baths Waters: Results of Examinations

	Standard recommended by Ministry of Health	Results from Baths	
		Large Swim	Small Swim
No. of samples taken	-	47	48
No. of samples containing coliform organisms in 100 ml. water	0	0	3
Percentage of number of samples submitted to plate count, and containing in 1 ml. water -			
(a) 0 - 10 colonies	not less than 75%	98%	100%
(b) 11 - 100 colonies	not more than 25%	2%	0
(c) over 100 colonies	0	0	0
Percentage of number of tests for residual chlorine content showing -			
(a) Less than 0.2 ppm	0	0	0
(b) 0.2 ppm or more	100%	100%	100%
Percentage of number of tests for pH value alkalinity -			
(a) between 7.2 and 8.0	100%	100%	100%
(b) outside these limits	0	0	0

Paddling Pool

The paddling pool in the Valley Gardens has proved to be a popular addition to the gardens. Frequency of water changes, and methods of bacterial and algae control, have been recommended to the Park's Department, and the efficiency of these is checked from time to time.

Refreshment Houses

Under this heading I refer to all restaurants, public houses and clubs. When these premises are visited under the Food Hygiene Regulations, an inspection is made at the same time of toilet facilities under section 89 of the Public Health Act, 1936, this section relates to provision made for the convenience of persons resorting to the premises. Conditions generally were satisfactory.

Hairdressers and Barbers Establishments

As required by Section 120(1) of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, a register is kept of persons carrying on the business of hairdresser or barber on premises in the Borough. Table 25 gives the numbers of such establishments, and indicates changes during, and the position at the close of, the year.

Table 25. Registration of Hairdresser and Barbers

Particulars of changes	Premises	Persons
No. on Register at 1st January	35	37
No. of entries added during 1962	4	5
No. of entries removed	7	7
No. on Register at 31st December	32	35

All premises had been inspected in 1961 when a high standard of hygiene was noted, in particular in the Ladies' Establishments. Nine inspections were made during the year under review, mainly in connection with new registrations.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Water Supply - Sewerage, Drainage and
Sewage Disposal - Refuse Collection
and Disposal

Water Supply

On 1st April, 1962, the Corporation's Water Undertaking was transferred to the newly formed Pontefract, Goole and Selby Water Board. Before the take over it has been the practice for the Chief Public Health Inspector to sample at the several sources and record and classify the results in this report. During the year under review and before the take over, four such samples were taken for bacteriological examination, one from each of the four sources, and all were classified on the Ministry of Health standard for pre-chlorinated waters, as highly satisfactory.

Whilst the Corporation no longer supplies water, it is still very much its concern that the water supplied within the Borough shall be satisfactory in quality and in quantity. Sampling within the Borough has therefore continued, and seven waters taken for chemical analysis were reported upon as being of good organic quality, whilst 40 waters examined bacteriologically were again highly satisfactory.

The supply in general has been satisfactory in quantity, but complaints were made of lack of pressure at certain times in the high level, Mill Hill Avenue area. This inconvenience became more severe with the increasing housing development in that area, and completion of the scheme started by the Corporation to provide a second main from the Water Tower to this area became a matter of some urgency. At the time of writing the scheme has been completed.

Sewerage, Drainage and Sewage Disposal

The Borough is well sewered, there being only 78 properties (3 less than reported last year) not served by public sewer. This figure will be reduced considerably when schemes approved by the Council, and at present in hand, have been completed. Twelve properties in the Borough are served by private disposal plants, 66 by cesspools, and the remainder, representing 99% of the total, are connected to public sewerage. Sanitary accommodation of the conservancy type (mainly chemical) exists at only 9 houses and at 3 other properties.

The Borough is served by the Knottingley Road and the Carleton Sewage Works. Whilst the Carleton Works are of recent construction, the Knottingley Road Works have been operating under increasing difficulties during the past few years. A scheme for the reconstruction of these Works, referred to in my 1961 report, is still under active consideration.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Corporation have undertaken the removal of house refuse throughout their district. With the exception of a small number of premises at which paper sacks are being used, all premises from which domestic refuse is removed are served by metal dustbins of standard specification. The Corporation have not adopted a Municipal Bin Scheme of the type envisaged by Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936. Bins are provided and replaced by owner or occupier, if necessary after formal notice served pursuant to sub-section 1 of this section, as amended by Section 69 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. In the great majority of cases owners accept this responsibility and statutory action is unnecessary. There would appear to be no compelling reason for changing the existing practice.

Apart from the salvaging of paper and metal, all refuse collected by the Corporation is disposed of by controlled tipping.

Chapter Seven

PREVENTION AND ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

Control of Offensive Trades - Animal Hygiene -
Noise Abatement - Moveable Dwellings - Rag Flock
and Other Filling Materials

Control of Offensive Trades

Offensive trades within the meaning of section 107(1)(i) of the Public Health Act, 1936, are carried on at two premises in the Borough, the trades concerned being those of bone boiler, fat extractor, fat melter, fellmonger, glue maker and size maker. A further trade carried on is the concentration and sterilisation of vegetable and animal waste, declared by the Council to be an offensive trade pursuant to their powers under paragraph (ii)(b) of the sub-section.

These trades provide a necessary public service. Large quantities of waste material, some of it already in an advanced state of decay, are brought on to these premises and not only rendered innocuous, but converted into useful commodities. Steps are taken to control the various processes and to prevent the escape of offensive gases generated in the course of processing. The complex and variable nature of the raw material received renders constant care necessary; the management must be on the alert for the first indication of the escape of offensive effluvia, and thereupon adjust the plant controls accordingly. There is no alternative to this empirical approach. Largely because those responsible become accustomed to the characteristic odour of the trade, the need for this adjustment is sometimes appreciated a little later than necessary to prevent odour in the neighbourhood. This rarely continues for more than a few minutes on any occasion, but this is long enough for one to realise that good planning demands the siting of such premises well away from built-up areas.

The Corporation have taken all reasonably practicable measures to control offensive trades, and the managements concerned, anxious not to cause offence, have endeavoured to operate accordingly.

Animal Hygiene

Apart altogether from the nuisance potential of animals kept under unsatisfactory conditions, animal diseases may affect, directly or indirectly, the public health. The control of conditions, therefore, under which animals are kept, whether they be animals on sale in pet shops, or food animals awaiting slaughter, or animals on agricultural holdings, is a matter which must concern the Department.

The Pet Animals Act, 1951, provides for the licensing of pet shops by the local authority who, before granting a licence must be satisfied that animals for sale will be kept in accommodation suitable as respects size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness; be adequately supplied with suitable food and drink and (so far as necessary) visited at suitable intervals; that precautions will be taken to prevent the spread of diseases among animals, and that steps will be taken in case of fire or other emergency. There are two licensed premises in the Borough, at which conditions were satisfactory.

At the Municipal Abattoir every endeavour is made to ensure that animals are handled in conformity with the provisions of The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations. The new Abattoir affords ideal conditions under which animal hygiene, humane slaughter.

and the avoidance of nuisance in the vicinity of the establishment, present no difficulty.

There is relatively little stabling or pig keeping in the Borough, and the Department is rarely called upon to deal with a complaint arising on such premises.

Noise Abatement

For many years Byelaws relating to noise nuisance have been in force in the Borough, dealing with such matters as sounding musical instruments or singing in the streets to the annoyance of occupants of houses, offices, churches or hospitals. In 1951 the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act added noise nuisance to the statutory nuisances, and the Noise Abatement Act of 1960 provided general legislation on similar lines and restricted the use of loudspeakers in the streets.

Two alleged noise nuisances were under investigation during the year. One arising from machinery on trade premises, and the other from a barking dog. In the former case the management were taking the best practicable means available to them to minimise the noise level, and no formal action could therefore be taken. In the second case nuisance was not proved to the satisfaction of the Department.

Moveable Dwellings

At the beginning of 1962, and throughout the year, no caravans were stationed in the Borough with the exception of a few in exempted classes; namely, those sited within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse and where use is incidental to the enjoyment of the house, and those stationed for one or two nights only, the sites being so used for not more than twenty-eight days in a year. The Corporation's byelaws lay down the standards of hygiene applicable in such cases. Complaints were received on several occasions about gypsies stationing their caravans on the verges of lanes on the outskirts of the Borough. No public health nuisance was created, and they moved on when requested; but a careful watch is being kept on the situation.

There are no licensed sites in the Borough. The high standards set by the Corporation for caravanners has tended to discourage the use of moveable dwellings in the Borough, and there has been no demand for the Corporation to provide and manage their own sites.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, is designed to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles, and during the year Regulations were made under this Act, superseding earlier Regulations, and bringing up to date the standards of cleanliness required in relation to the several kinds of filling materials to which the Act applies.

The Act provides for the registration by the local authority of premises upon which filling materials are used in manufacturing articles of upholstery, and one such factory is registered with the Council. During the year four samples of materials used on these premises were taken for submission to the prescribed chemical and physical tests, and all were reported upon as satisfactory.

Chapter Eight

PEST CONTROL

Fly control - Verminous Infestation -
Rodent Control Service

Fly Control

The importance of fly control in preventing the spread of certain infections is widely appreciated, but too few people take the regular steps needed to combat the fly menace. Complete control involves the elimination of breeding places, the screening of buildings and the discriminate use of insecticides. In particular, all rubbish should be stored in closed receptacles, and foods, whenever possible, should be kept covered.

During summer months posters were distributed to the occupiers of business premises most likely to be troubled; and Inspectors, visiting premises for any purpose and noting infestation, took the opportunity thus presented to offer advice. Failure to take steps to keep flies out of food premises is, of course, an offence under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

The litter problem is responsible for some of the trouble. In passages and yards in the town centre, not covered by public cleansing, litter lies around for long periods and in warmer weather much of this is attractive to flies. Progress in one department of public health can, it would seem, create problems in another. Take only one example: ice-cream is mostly sold pre-wrapped, or in cartons, and much of this prepacking material subsequently finds its way on to our streets as litter. As in some other branches of public health the solution is largely in the hands of the public themselves.

Verminous Infestation

During the year 12 houses were treated for verminous or suspected verminous infestation. Two of these were Corporation houses; nine were houses due for demolition under slum clearance procedure.

Whenever a Corporation house is vacated, or two Corporation tenants exchange houses, the premises are inspected. During, 1962, 317 such inspections were made, and infestation was found in only one of these.

In several cases people produced insects at the Department for identification, but in none was there any public health problem.

Rodent Control Service

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, so far as this Act relates to rodent infestation. Routine measures were taken to ensure, as far as practicable, the freedom from infestation of all premises in their own occupation; owners and occupiers of infested properties were required to face up to their responsibilities under the Act, and a Rodent Control Service was maintained by the Corporation, available to householders free of charge and to others at a charge which covers the cost of treatment. The Act places on local authorities a specific duty to inspect their district for infestation, and for much of his time the senior rodent operative was engaged on the discovery of infestations, and the organisation of treatments on 'block control' principles.

Table 26 gives statistics relating to the known incidence of infestation and to disinfestation measures taken during 1962.

Table 26. Rodent Control Statistics

	Class of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling-houses*	Agricultural	Business and Industrial	Total
No. of properties in the town	32	8,363	32	1,322	9,749
No. of properties inspected as a result of -					
(a) Notification	5	106	1	43	155
(b) Survey under the Act	8	67	7	166	248
(c) Otherwise	0	7	0	88	95
No. of properties inspected and found to be infested by -					
(a) Rats: Major**	0	1	0	0	1
Minor	11	98	2	28	139
(b) Mice: Major**	1	3	0	1	5
Minor	1	32	0	50	89
No. of infested properties treated by local authority	13	111	2	59	185
No. of treatments carried out (including re-treatments)	15	133	2	75	225
No. of 'block control' schemes carried out					16

* Excluding houses combined with businesses

** Infestation estimated at more than 20 rodents

Chapter Nine

ADMINISTRATION AND RECORDS

Tabular Statement of Inspections made and Notices served - Establishment

The Public Health Officers Regulations require the recording of inspections made, and the preparation of a tabular statement relating to the number and nature of these, to notices served and the results obtained. I have given as accurate a picture as possible in the statement; but when, at one visit, premises are dealt with comprehensively under two or more headings, difficulties in recording can arise. Records such as these may tend to type the public health inspector as an enforcement officer, whereas in many of his activities these days he finds himself, and happily so, in the role of educator and adviser.

Prepared and construed in this spirit, the tabular statement which follows may serve to summarise the year's work and indicate the emphases placed on the varied range of activities covered.

Table 27. Nature and Number of Inspections made by Public Health Inspectors and assistant staff during 1962.

<u>Nature of Inspections</u>	<u>Number made</u>
Housing Inspections and Enquiries:	
For unfitness, and repair or demolition of unfit houses	1,340
Improvement with grant-aid	32
Following applications under Rent Act for certificates of disrepair	-
Overcrowding and computation of 'permitted numbers'	11
Unsatisfactory conditions of multiple occupation	4
Air Pollution Inspections and Enquiries:	
Industrial smoke observations	19
Inspection of boiler plant	17
Investigations of smoke nuisances (section 16)	3
Smoke Control Areas -	
Preparation for establishment	738
Education and enforcement	331
Food Hygiene Inspections and Enquiries:	
Visits to slaughterhouse for meat inspection	548
Number of carcasses examined	13,234
Visits to shops for meat inspection	37
Investigations under Milk and Dairies Regulations	6
Sampling of milks and containers (for biological and bacteriological examinations)	23
General Food Inspection and sampling	189

Nature of InspectionsNumber made

Visits to food premises -

Investigations under Food Hygiene Regulations	90
No. of food rooms inspected	271
Investigations into sale of food in the open air	36

Occupational Hygiene Inspections and Enquiries:

For staff welfare in --

Factories	91
Other works (building sites)	2
Outworkers' premises	3
Shops	48
Workplaces (Public Health Act)	12
Agricultural holdings	26

Visits to Places of Public Resort:

Swimming Baths, water samples taken	97
Sanitary Accommodation. inspections under section 89 of Public Health Act, 1936	33
Inspection of Hairdressing Establishments (West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951)	9

Hygiene and the Public Health Services:

Water supply, investigations and sampling	60
Refuse Collection and Disposal, inspections and enquiries	46
Sewerage and Sewage disposal, and general drainage inspections (excluding housing defects)	38

Investigations connected with the prevention and abatement of nuisances, et cetera:

Offensive Trades	33
Moveable dwellings and sites	15
Noise nuisance	33
Animal hygiene, including Pet Animals Act	5
Other statutory nuisances (excluding housing defects)	40
Infectious diseases and food poisoning enquiries	14
For uncleanness and verminous conditions (including inspections for House Management)	431
Filling materials (Rag Flock Act)	1

Inspections and Enquiries connected with Pest Control:

For rodent infestation (mainly by Rodent Control staff)	498
For other pests	6

Table 28. Number of Notices served and the Result of Service

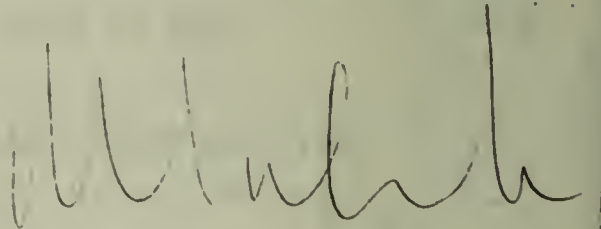
Act or Section under which or, in the case of informal notices, preliminary to which, notice was served	No. of Informal Notices						No. of Statutory Notices					
	(a) Outstanding from 1961	(b) Served in 1962	(c) Total of these	(d) Complied with	Not complied with		(g) Outstanding from 1961	(h) Served in 1962	(i) Total of these	(j) Complied with	(k) Work done by L.A.	(l) Outstanding at end of 1962
					(e) Statutory notice subsequently served in 1962	(f) Outstanding at end of 1962						
Public Health Act, 1936: (a) Housing Defects - Section 39, 40, 44 and 45 93 (b) Other - Section 39 75 83 89 Public Health Act, 1961: Section 17 Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949: Section 4 Section 6	3 27	26 291	29 318	23 303		6 15	2		2	2		
Totals	37	419	456	430	2	24	3	5	7	7	1	

Establishment

The staffing position is very satisfactory consisting of deputy chief public health inspector, two additional inspectors and a technical assistant for smoke control duties. A new pupil was appointed in September. To my Deputy, Mr. S.C.L. Wilson, and all members of the Staff, I express my appreciation of their work.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M. Wilson', written in a cursive style.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Municipal Offices,

Pontefract.

August, 1963.

